



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
عائز رضی اللہ عنہا نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے نماز میں اور حور دیکھنے کے متعلق پوچھا تو آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ یہ شیطان کی ایک ایک ہے جو وہ تمہیں سے ایک کی نماز سے بچو ایک لیتا ہے۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3291)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

National interest priority over political issues: Khaqan

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Sunday said that our party always prioritize national interest rather than political issues. Administration is neutral, currently transfer and postings of government official is banned during elections, he said. He said that holding seat of the opposition is more important than the government and we fear Pakistan would have default, if Imran Khan's government continue.



Pakistani startups, tech sector witnessing exponential growth: Masood Khan

Urging Pakistani-American entrepreneurs based in US to take advantage of existing economic opportunities in Pakistan's economy, a growing middle class and business friendly policies of the government, Pak Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has said that exponential growth of startups and tech sector in Pakistan has created huge economic opportunities and the country was mature for attracting investment.

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RMS of ECP working efficiently

RAWALPINDI: The Result Management System of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is working efficiently. The screens have been installed in the offices of all the 20 returning officers from which the results of all the polling stations are being displayed directly, said a statement issued here.

Spokesperson Election Commission said all candidates and media are being shown live in Provincial Election Commissioner Lahore.

Similarly, Election Commission Secretariat is also showing live. And so far 829 results have been received out of 3131 polling stations of Punjab. APP

Govt reshaping Mera Ghar Scheme: Miftah



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail has said that the government is reshaping Mera Ghar Mera Pakistan scheme and no-one will lose his or her money invested in this project.

In a tweet on Saturday, he assured that the government will resolve the issues of the concerned quarters within next week.

Punjab by-polls

FAISALABAD: Women stands in queue to wait casting their votes outside a female polling station during By-Election of PP-97 in the city.



Photo: Online

Change in Pakistan

PTI takes historic lead in Punjab by-polls

PTI will win at least 16 seats... these election results would change Pakistan's politics, says Asad Umar

LAHORE: The PTI has secured victory in nine constituencies — PP-217, PP-288, PP-282, PP-83, PP-158, PP-202, PP-224, PP-167, and PP-170 — while it is leading in nearly several others. On the other hand, the PML-N has just been able to secure one constituency (PP-168) so far as per unofficial results.

A charged PTI Sunday saw a "change in Pakistan" after the party took a major lead in the Punjab by-elections — the polls that will decide who holds the reins in the country's biggest province.

"Soon, Pakistan will witness a change [...] Hamza Shahbaz's fake government has ceased to exist," PTI leader Hammad Azhar

said in an address to party workers in Lahore.

In a separate press conference, PTI Secretary-General Asad Umar said that all the pre-poll surveys had pointed towards his party's victory in today's by-elections.

"PTI will win at least 16 seats. This isn't PTI's victory, this is the nation's victory," the former minister for planning, development, and special initiatives said.

The ex-federal minister said that people will not allow anyone to make decisions related to their fate behind closed doors as he stressed that these election results would change Pakistan's politics.

"Pervez Elahi will become the chief minister on July 22," Umar

Punjab Assembly number game

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly has a total of 371 members, of which 20 seats are vacant at the moment, bringing the total number of MPAs in the Punjab Assembly down to 351. The PML-N has 163 members. On the other side is the Opposition, therefore the PTI, which is 163 MPAs strong at the moment. In the house, there are five independents, of which Chaudhry Nisar, the former interior minister, is unlikely to vote. While the PPP has 7 MPAs, PML-Q has 10, and the Rah-e-Haq party has one. As per the rules of the Punjab Assembly, the chief minister is elected with a simple majority, therefore 186 votes out of the 371-seat assembly.

said while referring to the date when the elections for Punjab's top office will take place in line with Supreme Court's orders.

Umar said PTI Chairman Imran Khan might not hold an address on Sunday as he will first summon a core committee

meeting of the party's leadership tomorrow to decide the future course of action.

"Imran Khan does not prefer coming to the fore when he secures a victory," he said while asking party workers to stay on guard till the final results come in. Agencies

Sanaullah lauds ECP for holding by-polls in peacefully

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday praised the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for making comprehensive and exemplary arrangements to hold by-polls in 20 constituencies of Punjab in a peaceful way.

The ECP has ensured rule of law throughout the by-election proceeding which is commendable, he said while addressing a news conference.

"It may possible that the turnout in the by-election would cross 50 per cent, which is very encouraging as it shows that the people have enthusiastically participated in the election," Rana Sanaullah observed.

He said that the registered voters in all the 20 constituencies were 4,596,873 while a total of 3,140 polling stations

including 739 for male, 704 of female, 1,696 combined, and one improvised polling station were set up for the by-election.

The minister said that out of a total of 3,140 polling stations, minor type of complaints was received from only 14 polling stations. "Not a single complaint has been received about the ECP staff, violations of rules and arrangements made by the ECP from any candidates and their supporters," he added.

He said that about 185 candidates had participated in the by-election. No First Information Report (FIR) had been registered as not a single incident of firing took place at any polling stations.

The minister also appreciated Pakistan Army troops, rangers and Punjab police for maintaining law & order during the by-polls.

PTI celebrates victory

Free, fair elections 'only way forward': Imran

Imran Khan lauds voters for coming out in large numbers

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Following PTI's "landslide victory" in the hotly-contested Punjab by-polls on Sunday, party chairman Imran Khan said the only way forward was "free and fair elections."

A battle for the throne of Punjab was fought as voting was held for 20 constituencies of the province. The PTI managed to grab more votes compared to the PML-N, which has been in power for a very long time.

As results started pouring in, Khan took to his Twitter to reiterate his demand for early elections. "The only way forward from here is to

hold fair [and] free elections under a credible ECP."

"Any other path will only lead to greater political uncertainty [and] further economic chaos," he added.

Celebrations in the PTI camp are in full swing as preliminary, unofficial results in the by-election of Punjab show the party clearly dominating the race.

Meanwhile, former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan Sunday said that he was pleased to see voters coming out to cast their votes in large numbers during by-polls in 20 constituencies of the Punjab province.

Gill arrested in Muzaffargarh for violating ECP rules

PTI Chastongly condemns Gill's arrest

MUZAFFARGARH: Punjab police Sunday arrested PTI leader Shahbaz Gill in Muzaffargarh, PML-N spokesperson and Punjab Home Minister Atta Tarar confirmed.

According to a private tv channel, Gill has been arrested for allegedly visiting different polling stations during the by-elections in the city with his security guards who were dressed as FC personnel.

However, Gill denied the allegations of keeping any security guards dressed up in FC officials' uniforms. He claimed that he had been engaged for three hours and was suddenly arrested without a warrant.

The politician said that he will act according to what his lawyers suggest.

"Strongly condemn illegal arrest of Shahbaz Gill simply to try [and] rig elections [and] spread fear in [people]," PTI Chairman Imran Khan wrote on Twitter, taking notice of the incident.

"These fascist tactics will not work [and] our [people] will not be deterred from exercising



their right to vote. Handlers of imported govt should realise the damage they are doing to our nation," he added.

Commenting on the development, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that private security companies recruit retired personnel, adding that directions have been issued

to authorities concerned that all such private companies should be banned.

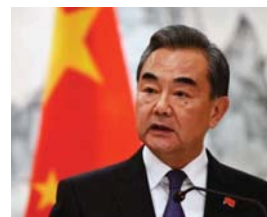
"I have ordered a high-level inquiry in this regard," he said, addressing a press conference.

PTI candidate Moazzam Jatui accepted the presence of FC personnel, saying they were present in a factory. However, he said that he would not comment on whether their presence was in line with the law.

Meanwhile, Gill took to his Twitter handle and said he is not 'afraid of getting arrested'. "Before you reach anyone else, I am presenting myself for arrest," he on Twitter, claiming he was "trapped in a factory". "Imran Khan's soldier is not afraid of such tactics. We did not come to do terrorism."

The political tensions are on the rise in Punjab as the hotly contested by-elections are the key to power in the province. The 20 constituencies will decide who will become the chief minister on July 22 — when the elections for the office take place. Agencies

Chinese FM expresses grief over flood damages in Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/BELJING: China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of lives and property during recent floods in several areas of Pakistan.

In a message to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he expressed deep sympathy with the families of those who died in the flood, the injured and other affected people.

Wang Yi said the Chinese government and people are always with the Pakistani government and the fraternal Pakistani people.

He expressed the hope that under the leadership of the Pakistani government, the people of Pakistan will definitely overcome the calamities and restore normal life soon.

PML-N accepts defeat in crucial Punjab by-elections

PML-N should accept results of by-polls with open heart and concede to decision of masses: Maryam Nawaz

Bureau Report

LAHORE: PML-N conceded defeat on Sunday in the crucial Punjab by-elections after the PTI took the lead in the majority of the 20 provincial assembly constituencies which were up for grabs.

As the unofficial results started pouring in, showing the PTI in the lead, the party's vice president Maryam Nawaz took to Twitter and said that the defeat should be accepted with an open heart.

"The PML-N should accept the results of the by-polls with an open heart and concede to the decision of the masses," Maryam wrote.

She added that winning and losing were part of politics, therefore, the party should now focus on its weaknesses, identify them, and then overcome them. "God willing, everything will be fine," she said.

Similarly, speaking to a private tv channel, PML-N's senior leader Malik Mohammad Ahmed Khan also accepted that PTI had received a "landslide victory" in the hotly-contested Punjab by-polls. "I accept that PTI has won and the party wholeheartedly accepts the opinion of the public," he said.

He further added that everybody can get into the debate of how and what happened, but "apparently the situation right now shows that PTI has won the



elections; therefore, we congratulate them and accept our defeat."

Replying to a question regarding PML-N's strategy for the election for the position of Chief Minister Punjab, scheduled to be held on July 22, Khan said: "I spoke to Hamza Shahbaz and he was of the view that people have expressed their choice, so we need to acknowledge it."

"Last time the situation was different as there were divisions among the party but this time, it is all about the public and now we will assess where we went wrong," he said, adding he considered

these by-polls as snap-elections.

Lamenting that the party lost three major seats in Lahore, he said that now there was no reason for the party to stick to their electioneering campaign.

"This is a difficult situation for us [PML-N] as we have lost elections in Punjab, where we've always had a stronghold, and our government in federal is a coalition setup with thin numbers," he maintained.

Khan further added that when parties consider public opinion, then power becomes secondary and people's choice becomes the top priority.

Determination

LAHORE: Relatives pulling wheelchair of a disable woman in a polling station for costing her vote during By-Election of PP-158 in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Arabian Sea storm just 160km south of Karachi

KARACHI: As heavy rains lashed the city on Sunday evening, a new weather alert for the fast-approaching storm was issued.

According to an advisory issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Sunday evening, the depression (intense low-pressure area) developing over the Northeast Arabian Sea and adjoining Gulf of Kutch has been moving in a west-northwest direction, towards the coast of Pakistan, at a speed of 10 kilometers per hour for the past 12 hours.

The advisory added that the depression now lies around 160km south of Karachi and 140km from Thatta. "Maximum sustained surface wind is 50-55 km/hour around the system centre," the advisory said.

The PMD said that the projected trajectory of the system is westwards (towards the Oman coast). The system will likely cause heavy rains with strong winds and thunderstorms with a few heavy and very heavy showers in the coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan.

The areas that will be affected in Sindh include Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Thaparker, Umerkot, Sanghar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allayar, Dadu and Jamshoro districts of Sindh.

In Balochistan, flood-hit Lasbella, Uthal, Ormara, Pasma, Gwadar, Jiwhani, Turbat, Awaran and Ketch areas are expected to start seeing rains and heavy winds from tomorrow, July 18. Further, the storm will make the sea very rough for the next two to three days.

The PMD advised fisherfolk in Sindh and Balochistan not to venture into the open sea until late at night on July 18. APP

Towards development

Economic strength key for country's sovereignty: President

Dr Arif Alvi says Pakistani diaspora could contribute to uplift and add value to business

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that economic and financial strength was vital for taking independent decisions and observed that country could achieve accelerated economic growth by imparting skills to youth and women through short and extensive training courses in various fields especially in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.

He said that meaningful and active role of Pakistani diaspora was imperative to uplift the business and industrial sectors and to impart skills to youth and women to help Pakistan achieve self-sufficiency which would enable the country to take independent political, financial and economic decisions for the betterment of the people.

The president made these remarks while virtually addressing the 45th Annual Convention of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA), USA, from Aiwani-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said on Sunday.

President APPNA, Dr Haroon Durrani, and members of the Pakistani diaspora in USA attended the virtual Convention.

The president regretted that Pakistan did not have the capacity in the past to absorb its highly educated, productive and precious human resource which resulted in its migration to developed countries of the world where, by sheer dint of merit, they became high achievers in many high value sectors and contributed in the development and prosperity of their host country.

The president said that Pakistani diaspora could contribute to uplift and add

value to business, industrial, agriculture and services sectors of Pakistan and in the development of non-productive population, such as the uneducated youth and women by imparting their technical skills and expertise in relevant fields.

He also appreciated the Pakistani physicians in USA for earning excellent reputation in the host country and for their valuable contributions towards Pakistan's development.

He urged them to establish telehealth services in Pakistan in order to provide guidance and consultancy to the patients, especially to the poor and deprived segments of the population.

While identifying various sectors where Pakistan needed to make progress, he said that we needed to provide further incentives to the ICT sector and equip our youth with marketable ICT skills.

Govt to complete water resources on priority: Shah

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmad Shah on Sunday said that timely completion of under-construction water resources was the top most priority of the government.

He said that the country could face the worst water crisis in case of failure to meet the prescribed time limit. In a statement, he said that Diamer Bhasha Dam, Dasu Dam, Tha Kot Dam, and Patan Dam were vital to overcoming the energy crisis in the country adding that the prudent utilization of water resources are imperative for the country.

The Federal Minister said that the country could not tolerate a moment's delay or negligence in the construction of these reservoirs, it was a matter of national integrity. "We have been here for a year, but in the meantime, we will work on a war footing," he added. The Federal Minister directed the concerned

agencies to make immediate feasibility of the tunnel to be constructed on Diamer Bhasha Dam.

Diamer Bhasha Dam would have a live storage capacity of 6.4 MAF. The dam is being constructed on river Indus - 40 km downstream of Chilas town. The installed capacity of the dam is 4500 MW of cheap power.

Dasu Hydro Power Project is a vital project that would trigger a new era of socio-economic development in the country and stabilize Pakistan's economy by providing low-cost hydel electricity to the masses.

Its Installed capacity is 4320 MW per annum. Similarly, the Thakot hydropower project will have a capacity of 4,000 MW and produce annual energy of 21,300 GWh for the national grid.

Patan hydropower project's Powerhouse is situated on the left bank near Patan Village, and 305 km from Islamabad. It has installed capacity of 2400mw.

Punjab By-polls: LEAs, media role lauded



ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Sunday lauded the role of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), media and provincial staff in ensuring peaceful and transparent elections in 20 constituencies of Punjab Assembly.

ECP spokesman in a statement appreciated the role of Pakistan Army, Rangers, Punjab Police, FC, staff of ECP, provincial government in the conduct of free, fair and transparent elections.

The ECP also acknowledged the positive role of media in disseminating timely information about the polling situation. APP

Secretary MoC to visit Kabul today

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As agreed by the Commerce Ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan in a zoom meeting on 06-07-2022, a delegation led by Saleh Ahmed Faruqi, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan will visit Kabul from 18-20 July 2022. It will comprise senior officers from Ministry of Commerce, FBR, NLC, Ministry of Interior and Power Division.

Bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, transit, transport facilitation and border facilitation will be discussed during the meetings between Pakistani and Afghan officials in Kabul. Issues being faced by traders in bilateral and transit trade between the two countries will also be discussed during the talks.

The meeting is a continuation of an ongoing process of bilateral engagements between Pakistan and Afghanistan in the fields of trade, transit, connectivity and economic cooperation.

Peaceful by-polls to herald era of prosperity: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that a peaceful election process has been completed in 20 constituencies of Punjab, which would herald development, prosperity and reduction in inflation in the country. Taking a dig at the previous government of the PTI, in a tweet, she said no staff of the Election Commission was kidnapped, no vote bag were stolen, no ballot boxes were snatched. She said fortunately there was no loss of life and the phone of the Punjab administration was not disconnected (like Daska by-elections during PTI rule). Staff Reporter

Elahi says will dissolve assembly on Khan's call

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker and PML-Q leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has asserted that he would dissolve the Punjab Assembly in two seconds on former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan's call, media reported on Sunday.

In a statement, the PML-Q leader gave credit for the 'victory' in Punjab by-elections to Imran Khan, saying that the strategy made by the former premier was 'perfect'.

Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi also advised the PTI Chairman to dissolve Punjab Assembly, saying that he would dissolve the assembly in two seconds on Imran Khan's call.

He further said that dialogues are a part of politics. "I will give the credit of sticking with PTI to my son Moonis Elahi," he added.

The 20 Punjab Assembly seats were vacated after the PTI MPs voted for Hamza



Shahbaz in the Chief Minister (CM) elections. The results of the by-polls would be essential for the CM vote count, ordered by the Supreme Court (SC), in the Punjab Assembly in July 2022.

The unofficial results so far have shown that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is comfortably leading in at least 16-17 seats in Punjab by-polls.

'ECP turned blind eye'

Imran urges courts to 'open now and act'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: As political pressure intensified after voting for Punjab's by-polls for 20 constituencies ended and the counting of the votes began, PTI Chairman Imran Khan Sunday urged the courts to "open now" to take notice of the "brazen violation" of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's orders and elections rules by the Punjab government.

The former prime minister took to his Twitter handle to highlight the untoward incidents that took place throughout the day, including the "use of government and state machinery to rig the election, illegal ballot stamping, harassment of voters, and arrests of PTI leaders."

Khan further added that Sunday, the Punjab government had violated the top court's orders and election rules to



rig the elections.

He further accused the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) of turning a blind eye to the incidents, and said the "courts must open now [and] act."

Meanwhile, polling in 20 constituencies of Punjab, which started at 8am today, came to an end at 5pm amid reports of isolated clashes and arrests.

During the day, Punjab police arrested senior PTI leader Shahbaz Gill for allegedly visiting different polling

booths with his security guards who were dressed as FC personnel.

Meanwhile, the ECP issued a notice to PTI Vice-President Shah Mehmood Qureshi for violating Article 56 of the Election Commission's code of conduct by visiting different polling stations, holding press briefings within the limits of the PP-217 Multan constituency, and launching an illegal raid along with supporters.

The ECP took notice of the fight in Lahore's PP-158 and ordered the district returning officer to review the situation in the constituency and contact security officials.

A scuffle broke out between the PTI and PML-N workers during the polling process in Lahore's constituency PP-158. As a result, one of the PML-N workers sustained a head injury. Agencies

Key UN forum ends

Pakistan, other States renew determination to reach SDGs

Spokesman Reporter

UNITED NATIONS: The 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) has ended at UN Headquarters in New York, with delegates showing "enthusiasm, passion and high-energy" for reaching the anti-poverty Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

"We have advanced the substantive programme of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and initiated concrete foundational action to implement the decisions of the General Assembly" in resolutions on strengthening the HLPF and ECOSOC, the 54-member body's president, Colleen Kelapile, said.

Over 100 high-level delegates, including some 40 heads of state, took part in the discussions over a two-week period, reiterating their

resolve to leave no one behind.

Pakistan's delegation was led by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, who expressed his government's commitment to accomplish the SDGs that are aimed at dealing challenges of poverty, global food insecurity and water scarcity.

In his closing statement, ECOSOC President, Kelapile, who is Botswana's ambassador to the UN, said, although the COVID pandemic continues, "we are moving on in the road to recovery and...looking far ahead, beyond today's daunting challenges and crises."

Reversing the pandemic's negative impacts on the likelihood of reaching the ambitious SDGs; transforming socio-economic and financial systems; addressing the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine on food security and energy supply; and halting climate change, pollution

and biodiversity loss, are "a calling we must work much harder to achieve," the ECOSOC president added.

He reminded that we have the tools and means, but needed to work "together in solidarity" as a "global family."

Kelapile said the new Ministerial Declaration, which the meeting adopted by consensus, provides an "unwavering commitment to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

Sharing some of the main messages of the HLPF, he described today's challenges as a threat to the SDGs but also an opportunity for renewed multilateral action and the quest for innovative solutions.

And while the pandemic has exposed inequalities between and within countries, it has also underscored the importance of univer-

sal healthcare coverage supported by proper healthcare systems - without which, "there can be no sustainable development."

The ECOSOC President spoke about the need to bridge the financing gap by reforming international debt and taxation architecture.

He also underscored that education is "a human right and a common public good, not a privilege," noting the upcoming Transforming Education Summit in September to address obstacles that hinder SDG-4.

Kelapile reminded that no country has achieved gender equality and that the needs of women and girls must be addressed "more comprehensively" to build back better, including eradicating violence against women and implementing national gender budgets.

He then stressed the importance of engaging

local authorities for "an inclusive implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda" while pointing out that vaccine equity and production in developing countries "is critical to economic recovery."

Turning to the environment, the ECOSOC chief highlighted that a "whole-of-society" approach was required to effectively address global deforestation, land degradation, biodiversity loss, poverty eradication, food insecurity and climate change, adding that the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, showed that there are still opportunities for comprehensive ocean action.

"I am particularly heartened that during this HLPF we launched preparations for the 2023 SDG Summit to be held in September 2023 at the mid-term point of implementation of the 2030 Agenda," said Mr. Kelapile. APP

Govt will pull country out of economic crisis: Abbasi

Says the government is committed to facilitate the masses.

HAVELIAN: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi hoped that the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would do utmost to pull the country out of the economic crisis with public cooperation.

The minister said that they will make accountable all those who had ignored the country, and the Supreme Court should take notice of Imran Khan's anti-government statements.

He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering at village Diwal, Satara and other areas in his constituency here on Saturday.

Murtaza Abbasi said that if Imran Khan's government was given more time, the country would have gone bankrupt, the allied parties of PTI left them and resulting in their government has lost the majority in



the assembly and Imran Khan lost his government, he added.

The minister said that the Supreme Court should take notice of the way Imran Khan is talking about the division of the country and the division of Pakistan's forces in public gatherings.

Murtaza Abbasi said that the people of Tehsil Havelian have always supported the PML-N and they would continue their support and vote in favour of their favorite party in the coming days as well.

He said that no mega project was given to Tehsil Havelian during the last 7-year by the provincial government of Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Murtaza Abbasi said that after the division, the city of Havelian has gained political importance again and in the coming days, PML-N will be active in Tehsil Havelian. The fruits will be visible to the people of the entire constituency, he hoped. APP

Sector Commander inspects repair work by NHA

Staff Reporter



ATTOCK: Ateeq-ur-Rehman Sector Commander Hakla to DI Khan inspected repair works by NHA and rehabilitation of hard shoulder after current rains. Under directions of Zonal Commander Mazhar-ul-Haq Kakakhel DIG CPEC, Ateeq-ur-Rehman Marwat in coordination with GM NHA, observed personally work under progress near Indus River.

Directions were issued regarding proper patching, hard shoulder repairs and closed illegal cuts. "Fence repair and under passes must be maintained in priority for villagers adjacent to CPEC. Rain effected area reported must be cleared within days."

Anti-dengue activities underway at IUB

Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: Various activities are going on in connection with the anti-dengue campaign at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, on the direction of Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice-Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Medical and Health Care, Estate Care, Hall Council, Farm Management and through Faculty of Agriculture & Environment. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Muhammad Usman Cheema has said that these activities have started in connection with the anti-dengue campaign in the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

He said that the initial symptoms of dengue fever are severe fever and body pain due to which there is no appetite, pain starts behind the eyes which spreads to other side of the head. Such spots appear on the body which appears in measles. There is difficulty in breathing and the patient goes into a state of shock due to severe abdominal pain in addition to pallor.

The patient should be given plenty of juices, soups and milk along with a normal diet and should be given complete rest. Regarding preventive measures in this regard, houses, offic-



es and shops should be cleaned and sprayed with mosquito repellents two to three times a week. Dengue mosquito breeds in clean water, so containers for collecting clean water such as pitchers, drums, tanks, etc. should be properly covered. Current season is of using room coolers, so whenever they are not in use water should be removed from them. Coils, mats, lotions and mosquito nets should also be used to prevent mosquitoes. Do not allow water to collect in roofs, plant beds, pots, old pots and tires inside the houses. Meanwhile, cleaning and spraying arrangements are being made in all teaching and administrative departments, hostels and colonies.

During the rainy season, all the places where water can stand are

being closed, Water containers and water tanks, are being covered. Special instructions have been issued to prevent spillage of water from room coolers, air conditioners and refrigerators. Sanitation staff has been instructed not to allow water to collect in case of rain, to clean roofs and arrange for disposal of garbage.

Anti-dengue sprays and fogging are being arranged in the artificial lakes located in the University for feeding dengue larva fish or sprinkling of appropriate drugs. Water should not be allowed to collect in construction materials and old tires. Similarly, the sewerage system is also being kept functional. All possible dengue breeding sites are being regularly monitored across the campuses.

Anti-quackery campaign underway in Attock

Staff Reporter

ATTOCK: Anti-quackery campaign will remain continue and will be taken to its logical end.

As per the details, anti-quackery campaign has been launched in Attock and a few clinics/medical stores have been sealed where quacks were found practicing, higher authorities have been asked to lodge FIRs against the quacks.

The sources said that the health officers deputed for anti-quackery drive are fully authorised and empowered to visit medical stores and clinics and take action where quacks are found. The sources further revealed that quacks had launched baseless propaganda and also lodging baseless allegations against the health authorities but will not succeed in achieving their nefarious designs.

Bride, 3 others die as car plunges into ravine

MUZAFFARABAD: At least four persons, including the bride, were killed and five others injured as a car, carrying a wedding-party, skidded off the road and fell into a deep ravine at Noseiri village on Muzaffarabad-Neelum Valley road on Sunday.

According to the police, the ill-fated Toyota Corolla car was on its way to Muzaffarabad from Neelum Valley with nine persons, including minor kids on board.

The car went out of control and plunged into the deep gorge as the driver was negotiating a sharp turn at Chakranka village of Noseiri, about 35 km from the State's metropolis. Four passengers died on the spot while five received severe injuries, Muzaffarabad police told APP.

The lost lives were identified as the ill-fated bride Safeena Lateef-19, driver Nadeem s/o Doulat Khan, Aamina w/o Muhammad Saleem, and Shagufta w/o Ayaaz.

Those injured in the accident included bridegroom Owais-22, 2-year-old Aimal d/o Ayaaz, Aima-5 d/o Ayaaz, 6-months-old Insha d/o Saleem, and Noor-5 d/o Abdul Qadeer. The injured were rushed to the Central Hospital, Muzaffarabad.

Construction work of 500KV grid station Chakwal begins

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has acquired 758 Kanal and 3 Marla land for the construction of 500 kV grid station Chakwal. The contractor has been mobilized for construction of boundary wall. This project remained at halt for many years due to severe land acquisition issue.

The spokesman said that establishment of 500 kV grid station in Chakwal district would help in the development of industries. Construction of Two 500 kV transmission lines from Ghazi Brotha-Gatti and Gakkar-Rawat will also be part of this project. Total estimated cost of the project is Rs 8926.39 million including 43.76 million Euro promised by KfW, German bank.

The project will improve power supply position in IESCO and FESCO regions. It will also improve voltage



profile in Chakwal, Choa Saidan Shah, Gujjar Khan, Dandot, Pinawal, Talagang, Padshahan, Chakri and the areas under the jurisdiction of FESCO. The improvement of voltage profile will be beneficial especially for the cement industries in Chakwal.

Resultantly, it will help to increase employment and business opportunities in the area. NTDC Management appreciated the efforts of NTDC engineers who remained in continuous liaison with local administration to complete the land acquisition process.

Civil Society calls for localization, more budget on important SDGs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The civil society of Pakistan has appreciated the incumbent government's presentation of official voluntary national review (VNR) at the UN High Level Political Forum in New York showing progress on the 2030 Agenda.

However, it said that several concerns still exist on critical sustainable development goals (SDG) priorities in the absence of policy coherence, efficient implementation and review mechanisms.

The civil society organizations (CSOs) pointed out that addressing the reported regressions and stagnation on critical goals including inequalities, hunger, justice, education, gender equality and climate change needs more

focus. According to them, the most marginalized like the poorest, women & girls, transgenders, religious & sexual minorities, farmers, labourers, and persons with disabilities are the subjects still need to be covered properly in public sector development programs.

These concerns were expressed in a joint statement of representatives from a number of CSOs including Pakistan Development Alliance, Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights, AwazCDS-Pakistan, Sightsavers Pakistan, Malala Fund UK, Save The Children, Umang Champions, The Brook International, UGOOD, PCE, PODA, HomeNet Pakistan, Roots for Equality, Karachi Research Institute and LifeSavers here on Friday.

Pakistan is attending the UN HLPF (July 5115) in New York under the

auspices of ECOSOC under the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

The HLPF also reviewed in-depth SDGs on quality education, gender equality, life below water, life on land, and partnerships for the goals. During the session, representatives of 44 countries carried out voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The CSOs, while pointing out over 22 million children are out of school, called for holistic planning, equitable financing, and stronger political will to enhance the educational outcomes prioritizing the millions left behind.

At least 4-6 per cent of GDP or 20-25 per cent of public expenditure must be ensured to protect peoples' fundamental right to education, as per Article 25A, they suggested.

They were of the view that the gender equality requires multi-sectoral gender-sensitive planning based on comprehensive vulnerability assessment for achieving gender-responsive social protection, health and education outcomes, protection from violence and disasters, and protection of right to inheritance, employability and political participation.

For the protection of civic spaces and democratic accountability, they emphasized for CSOs' meaningful inclusion across agenda-setting and planning processes to avoid tokenistic representation.

Democratic traditions should not be limited: AJK PM

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that democratic traditions should not be limited to just writings and statements but these traditions should be put in practice to ensure real democracy. The AJK PM said this while visiting the PTI Central Secretariat in the Federal metropolis on Sunday. PTT's Central Secretary General Asad Umar, Senior Vice President Shireen Mazari, Senior Leader PTI Senator Saifullah Khan Niazi, Central Leader Iftikhar Durrani and Chairman Election Cell Riyaz Fatiana were present on the occasion. He said that people talk a lot about western democracy but nobody contemplates on the essence of democracy in the western world. "There is neither personalism in western democracy nor any example of oppression", he said. "Providing equal opportunities to people is the real democracy", he said adding that the government's sole responsibility was to provide equal opportunity to all voters to exercise their right without any prejudice and party bias. "We must show tolerance and patience and give the voter the right to freedom of opinion", the AJK PM said, adding that it was high time that the people should follow the democratic traditions in letter and spirit to move the country forward.

DPO Gujarat asks cops to treat people with respect



KHARIAN: DPO Gujarat Ataur Rehman has dismissed 10 employees who were absent from duty, including one trainee sub-inspector, an ASI and 8 constables, while nine constables belonging to the department were dismissed. According to details, a total of 11 employees were sentenced to forfeiture of service, including 8 constables, 2 ASIs and a sub-inspector.

Twenty two employees, including 6 sub-inspectors, 14 ASIs and 2 constables, were given warnings. DPO Gujarat Ataur Rehman has said that those who bring disrepute to the department have no place in the police.

"Misbehavior with masses, corruption and negligence of duty will not be tolerated under any circumstances", he added.

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:29 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:11 pm
Maghrib	7:18 pm
Isha	8:58 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
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Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
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Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

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Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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PIA Cargo	9280979
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CAA	9281092

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MH	561116
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Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

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G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	Rawalpindi: 0331-5022125

Polling held peacefully in PP-7

RAWALPINDI: The polling process was ended peacefully on Sunday without any interval in Rawalpindi constituency PP-7. The polling started at 8am which continued till 5pm without any interruption, during which no untoward incident took place.

Six candidates are contesting in the PP-7 by-election: Raja Sagheer of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Colonel (ret'd) Shabbir Awan of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, Raja Tanveer of Jamaat-e-Islami, and Hafiz Mansoor Zahoor Langrial from the platform of Tehreek-e-Labaik.

Moreover, Colonel (ret'd) Raja Waseem Janjua, and Engineer Raja Nazakat Hussain are also taking part as independent candidates.

In PP-7, the total number of registered voters were 3,35,295, including 1,71,464 male and 1,63,831 female voters while 266 polling stations and 789 polling booths were set up. Some 76 polling stations of PP-7 were declared sensitive.

Besides, special security arrangements, including 4,500 police officers and personnel, were put in place to ensure smooth polling. APP

Pakistan records slight decline in COVID-19 cases

Coronavirus positivity rate stands at 2.85%

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has registered a slight decline in its daily coronavirus caseload as the country reported 605 new infections of the pathogen during the last 24 hours, data from the National Institute of Health showed Sunday.

As per the latest statistics of the NIH, 21,233 COVID-19 diagnostic tests were

conducted across the country and out of which 605 came back positive, taking the number of total cases of the disease to 1,546,252. The NIH stated that the coronavirus positivity rate in the country stands at 2.85% as of Sunday.

Meanwhile, two more patients succumbed to the virus in the last 24

hours, taking the death toll from COVID-19 to 30,440.

The NIH said 173 COVID-19 patients are still in critical condition and being treated at different medical facilities.

In addition to this, 429 more COVID-19 patients recovered from the disease during the same period. Agencies

Over 35,000 vehicles entered in Murree during weekend

RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Naveed Irshad on Sunday said that more than 35,000 vehicles entered Murree in three days during the weekend.

According to the CTP spokesperson, CTO Rawalpindi said that despite the extraordinary rush was witnessed during the weekend in Murree.

He appreciated the efforts of traffic offi-



cial for providing the best traffic facilities to the tourists, in view of the convenience of tourists, additional traffic police officers were deployed on all important highways, lifters and beat in-charges were also kept on constant patrolling to enforce the violation of no parking.

A special desk and helpline had also been set up for the convenience of tourists, he added. Agencies

Risking Lives

ISLAMABAD: Youngsters crossing railway track as Freight Train is arriving which may cause any incident any time and needs attention for concern authority, at Gollra Railway Station in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

US delegation assures Mushaal full support to ensure release of Yasin

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A high level US delegation on Sunday called on Peace and Culture Organisation Chairperson Mushaal Hussein Mullick to express solidarity with her and 10 year old Raziyah Sultana over the unjust and illegal detention of Yasin Malik and the unabated human rights violations in the Indian Occupied valley.

The interfaith harmony delegation comprising Michael Crowe, Lucas Bontrager, Dr. Joe's Knight, Anwer Qasmi, Ilyas Masih and Daud Ilyas expressed grave concerns over the unfair and inhuman treatment meted out with Yasin Malik.

During the meeting, Mushaal, who is wife of Yasin Malik, Rehama Hussein Mullick Co Chairperson, Sabien Hussein Mullick Secretary General Peace and Culture



Organisation apprised the delegation that Yasin Malik was kept in death cell for his sole crime to raise voice against Indian unlawful subjugation.

They said that Yasin was the most powerful voice of Kashmir peaceful struggle to break the shackles of Indian slavery. The Hurriyat leader went on to say that the voice of Kashmir freedom struggle was implicated in false and fabricated cases just to reduce the intensity of Kashmir independent movement.

The Chairperson feared that the brutal authorities could

torture him to death as dozens of Hurriyat Leaders and young Kashmiris have already been killed in detention.

Therefore, Mushaal requested that the delegation should not only press their own government but should raise the issue of Yasin Malik's unlawful detention and continued human rights violations at global forums.

Peace and Culture team urged the world powers and UN bodies to press the fascist Narendra Modi-led Hindutva regime to resolve the

long-standing Kashmir dispute as per the UN agreed formula and aspirations of Kashmiri people.

On the occasion, the delegation assured them that they would raise the issue of illegal detention of Yasin Malik and ethnic cleansing of Kashmiris at every forum.

They said that the Hindutva regime influenced by RSS ideology was badly disrupting world peace.

The American delegation vowed that they would make all out efforts to ensure the safe release of Yasin Malik and resolution of Kashmir dispute.

Mushaal thanked the delegation for expressing solidarity and assuring support for safe release of Yasin Malik and resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the wishes and aspirations of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Health Corner

Maroof Int'l hospital successfully conducts Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital has successfully conducted its first Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery on a six-month child.

The child had a hole in the septum that required surgery. The operation was conducted by Dr. Mahim Akmal Malik, an American Diplomat in Congenital Cardiac Surgery. The child was discharged after 72 hours of a speedy recovery.

Since June 2022, Maroof International Hospital has started operating open-heart surgery, valve repair, and procedures for infants, children, and adolescents.

A team of foreign qualified Pediatric Cardiologists and Cardiothoracic Surgeons was supported by physicians, intensivists, nurses, and anesthesiologists, led by Dr. Mahim Akmal Malik, Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon, and Dr. Muhammad Tariq Jamil, Pediatric Intensivist.

Sharing details, Dr. Mahim Malik said that congenital heart defects are very different from the types of heart diseases that are common among adults as repairing hearts in small bodies present an added challenge.

On the occasion, the CEO of Maroof International Hospital, Haroon Naseer said that after having a successful state-of-the-art Maroof Cardiovascular Centre along with two Cath Labs equipped for a full spectrum of interventional cardiology, cardiac surgeries, and structural procedures, this year they invested extensively on the development of three main areas including a six-bed Coronary Care Unit (CCU), Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery Unit, having cutting edge technology.

This is the second PICU in the twin cities which is staffed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan's (CPSP) accredited Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Supervisor.

Nine suspects held in capital

ISLAMABAD: Capital territory police, during a drive against anti-social elements, arrested nine outlaws in the last 24 hours from different areas of the city, a police public relations officer said.

According to the details, the Bhara Kahu police team arrested two accused namely Khuram Nazakat and Aziz and recovered three stolen motorbikes. They also arrested accused Namat Khan and recovered 30-bore pistol along with ammunition from him.

The Kohsar police teams arrested two accused Ghulam Khan and Mubarak Messiah involved in illegal gas decanting, Shams Colony police arrested and accused Muhammad Mushtaq involved in illegal oil selling.

Sabzi Mandi Police apprehended a drug peddler namely Gul Nazam and recovered 1240 grams hashish from him. Noon police arrested two accused Izhat Ullah and Irfan Ullah and recovered two 30-bore pistols from their possession. Cases were registered against the nominated accused and further investigation was underway.

Islamabad Capital Territory police have accelerated their efforts against criminal elements in the city to curb the crime and to save the lives and property of the citizens, the spokesman said.

The police had also requested citizens to cooperate with the police and inform them about any suspicious activity in their area. APP

2,299 notices issued on violations of anti-dengue SOPs

RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority had issued 2,299 notices and imposed a fine of Rs 419,500 to various violators for not following anti-dengue SOPs from January 1 to date.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC) Dr Sajjad Mehmood, while giving details of the punitive actions, informed APP that the DHA had registered 114 FIRs, sealed 130 premises, Challenged 423, issued notices to 2,299 and a fine of Rs 419,500 imposed on violations of SOPs in various areas of the district.

He added that the authority had completed three indoor and seven outdoor surveillance cycles, adding 1,334 anti-dengue teams during indoor surveillance from January 1 to date, checked 3,898,804 houses and found dengue larvae at 9,896 homes.

Similarly, he informed that 597 teams during outdoor surveillance inspected 1,582,383 spots and detected larvae at 1,071 places.

Meanwhile, Dr Sajjad informed that 51 more dengue fever suspects had been brought to the district's health facilities during the last 24 hours, of which two were declared probable and one non-dengue.

He updated that the dengue fever condition was under control in Rawalpindi, and only 13 cases had been reported this year while the health department has devised a comprehensive policy to cope with any situation.

The health officer added that prevailing weather had increased the threat of mosquito breeding which needed to be tackled on an emergency basis, as the Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast more rains in coming days. Agencies

Pakistan Railways amounts to Rs144b loss: PIDE

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The losses incurred by Pakistan Railways during the five years period (2015 - 2020) have amounted to a prodigious 144 billion PKR.

The stiff competition from road transport and the inability of PR to adopt a customer-centric business plan because of complex bureaucratic structure, has led to an inefficient, underfinanced, and overstaffed public agency running in losses for the last three and a half decades.

Placed in the "Retain and Restructure" category after the State Owned Enterprises (SOE) triage exercise in March 2021, the 19th-century infrastructure still grapples with the challenges of the 21st century after several repeated rounds of halfhearted reforms.

This was revealed in a recent research report by the Pakistan Institute of Development Econom-

ics. PIDE report recommended radical institutional reforms in Pakistan Railway as it currently ranks among the top ten loss-making state-owned enterprises (SOE) in Pakistan; a 44 Billion PKR deficit was reported in 2020; 36 billion PKR pension liability on PR was reported for 120,000 employees in 2020; and to overcome the deficit and pension liability, a 45 billion PKR subsidy was provided by the government in 2020.

According to a press release issued from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, it was said in the report that Fifty percent of ticketing is now electronic but Pakistan Railway still lacks an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system which integrates all the processes. Even the flow of financial information within the enterprise reports a delay of 60 days.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems should be created for the customer rela-

tionship including tracking arrangements, call centers, SMS alerts, etc. Railways Automated Booking and Travel Assistance (RABTA) has been advertised. Automation is expected to address the leakages which have been the major reason behind the decline in the volume of PR freight in 2020-21.

Additionally, there are 115 000 unverified retirees of PR, who are paid 35 billion rupees annually. To verify these individuals, a biometric verification system for the pensioners has been proposed. The pension deficit has been fielded by the government of Pakistan for PR. A pay and pension commission has been formed which will have to think about not only railways but other public enterprises as well.

Furthermore, the Pakistan Railway has 178000 acres of land, out of which 145 000 are being used for operational purposes. The remaining 33 000 acres is the "Right of Way" entitled to the Pakistan

Railway. This land is both underpriced as well as underpaid as the rents are concerned. Two options can be exercised to put this ancillary land in use.

Around 5 to 10 billion PKR can be generated annually by rewriting the concession agreements and getting rid of the encroachers. Or like Delhi Metro, transforming the railway stations of big cities like Lahore Karachi Islamabad into commercial hubs with decent shopping plazas, cafes, and restaurants.

PIDE's report further stated that to enhance the productivity of human resources, there is a need to understand how individuals think and decide. This would require going beyond the "rationality" assumption and expanding the set of tools and strategies Pakistan Railway can think of via behavioral economics. Automatic, social, and thinking with mental models shape the decision of all individuals.

While the losses incurred by PR can be

reframed so they are more obvious to all levels of employees. The losses can be interpreted in terms of the declined health and education facilities for the families of the employees. The cost of subsidies provided by the government can be highlighted in terms of the number of children outside school or poverty relief that government provides.

Following the Rider-Elephant-Path approach, one experiment could be to design a specific program for mid-level officers from different departments of PR on how business-oriented railways work. The participation of the mid-level management plays an essential role in implementing reforms.

Thus, the baseline or design of the reforms should focus on inspiring and engaging this tier of bureaucracy. Their attitudes can play a pivotal role in the acceptance and implementation of reforms. The group should also include partners of PR from the private sector.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
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 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Emerging Contours of US-China Strategic Competition

Ali Imran Atta

US-Pakistan relations have been remained in dire strait and the experiencing perpetual crisis once again due to the evolving scenario in Afghanistan. What we're seeing now is a back-to-the-future situation where the focus is on security and anti-terrorism, not on making our partnership more productive and comprehensive.

It's a little different in terms of the tone of the talk (so far, at least). Islamabad has expressed its reluctance to facilitate US, and the country has made clear that it will not go to war with the Afghan Taliban. US President Joe Biden has not yet spoken to Pakistani security establishment about our country despite repeated requests. When they communicate, expect throwback discussions in which Washington asks Islamabad to 'do more, even though Pakistan's clout over the Afghan Taliban is limited.

While it's hard to say that the two countries will disagree on anything relating emerging TTP's extremism. Keeping in

view, its potential to global or regional terrorism in the future decade, both countries are likely to work in harmony with one another.

An agreement to invest up to \$40 trillion in infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries has been announced by the G7 as a part of the group's Build Back Better World Partnership (B3W). To have strong nexus with Washington on issues other than defense, Islamabad can now use this opportunity as a starting point.

To oppose China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the B3W is touted as a counterbalance to China's global ascendance. Given that Pakistan is one of the BRI's most strategically important and well-developed components, there is a belief that Islamabad will not be included in B3W planning. Biden snubbed Islamabad at an environmental discussion also implies that B3W talks are hopeless.

The New York Times quoted Imran Khan as saying, "why do we always choose sides—whether it is the US or China? In response to the question. I think we should have a relationship with everyone". Balancing relationships between compet-

ing superpowers is the only viable option for Pakistan."

B3W is predicted to be balancing, notwithstanding the prevailing B3W versus BRI media agenda. The bulk of the BRI's expenditure has been for transportation and power, which is a strategic focus. As for the B3W, it's going to focus on issues like gender equity and climate change.

B3W may lead to regional cooperation, as New Delhi and Afghanistan are likely to engage in several projects.

A comparable approach or attempt to stifle B3W ambitions by trampling on the same ground remains to be seen by China. As part of the BRI, China has since 2015 been pushing for a "Digital Silk Road" built on top of existing infrastructure projects. Chinese officials have also begun talking about a "Health Silk Road" after the pandemic struck. Beijing

may have to prioritize BRI projects in the coming years if 20 percent of BRI projects are affected by delays and financial limitations caused by Covid. BRI and B3W provide countries like Pakistan a way to meet their requirements while participating in both initiatives.

It is further tempered by the fact that B3W is a G7 project rather than purely a US venture. As part of Trump administration's effort to resist Chinese influence, the Trump administration created B3W as an alternative to the BRI. An additional purpose of the plan was to increase private sector investment, further lowering US development expenditures. Initially, the emphasis was on large-scale infrastructure projects, such as those involving electrical power generation.

Under Vice President Biden's leadership, the concept has matured and will be further modified by incorporating developed economies with less hostile views of China. As a "green BRI," B3W is referred to as a "balancing" approach rather than a "hostile" one in public remarks. Italy, a G7 member and BRI participant, recently completed an accord. As a

result, it seems unlikely that the either/or scenario would play out in the way that some have predicted.

B3W may lead to regional cooperation, as New Delhi and Afghanistan are likely to engage in several projects. This would be a welcoming change from current estimates, which see the Pakistan-India conflict increasing in imitation of China-US tensions.

The construction of B3W will pose significant issues. Unlike the bilaterally negotiated, mostly state-funded projects of the BRI, this endeavor will require the coordination of various governments and the mobilization of numerous sources of private finance if it is successful. Nevertheless, post-mortem difficulties and negotiations tied to several BRI projects might be encouraging better-planned initiatives from the start.

Obviously, it is Islamabad's responsibility to identify its own needs, define its values and priorities, and participate in international initiatives that serve the public good.

The author is PhD candidate. He can be reached at aliatta@ir.qau.edu.pk

By-Polls: PTI landslide victory

Punjab witnessed intense political activity on Sunday (17 July, 2022) as make-or-break by-elections on 20 hotly-contested provincial constituencies took place.

Political pundits was expecting a tough contest between PML-N and PTI in the by-polls that will decide who will become the next chief minister of the province.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah praised the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for making comprehensive and exemplary arrangements to hold by-polls in 20 constituencies of Punjab in a peaceful way. The ECP has ensured rule of law throughout the by-election proceeding which is commendable, he said while addressing a news conference.

"It may possible that the turnout in the by-election would cross 50 per cent, which is very encouraging as it shows that the people have enthusiastically participated in the election," Rana Sanaullah observed.

The registered voters in all the 20 constituencies were 4,596,873 while a total of 3,140 polling stations including 739 for male, 704 of female, 1,696 combined, and one improvised polling station were set up for the by-election.

Following PTI's "landslide victory" in the hotly-contested Punjab by-polls, party chairman Imran Khan said the only way forward was "free and fair elections." A battle for the throne of Punjab was fought as voting was held for 20 constituencies of the province. The PTI managed to grab more votes compared to the PML-N, which has been in power for a very long time.

As results started pouring in, Khan took to his Twitter to reiterate his demand for early elections. "The only way forward from here is to hold fair [and] free elections under a credible ECP." "Any other path will only lead to greater political uncertainty [and] further economic chaos," he added.

Celebrations in the PTI camp are in full swing as preliminary, unofficial results in the by-election of Punjab show the party clearly dominating the race.

Keeping in view the political situation, the political leadership needs to seriously introspect as to what depths our politics has sunk and what are the likely consequences of it on the country. Pakistan has suffered from political leadership relying more on populism rather than working toward solid performance and delivery.

What matters to the people now is how the political leadership conducts itself to lead the country toward economic recovery and political stability. The current dismal economic indicators for our political leadership should be of foremost concern.

There is a dire need to take the country in right direction no meter which political party rules over the country. Political stability is the only solution to lead the country towards prosperity and development.

The current by-elections shows the mindset of the majority of people and each political party must accept and respect others mandate in the best interest of the country.



A window of opportunity for Afghanistan and Pakistan

Ishtiaq Ahmad

The Saudi-US alliance has served as an anchor of stability in the Middle East and a key source of support for Pakistan and Afghanistan during successive rounds of the Afghan war. The recent friction was an exception, coinciding with the US exit from Afghanistan. The two countries lost an important channel, the Kingdom's good offices, to persuade the US to remain engaged in mitigating the consequences of this war.

The current US outreach in the Gulf is, therefore, a good opening for them. If this visit by US President Joe Biden to Saudi Arabia paves the way for restoring the strategic US-Saudi relationship, Pakistan and Afghanistan can hope to renew US interest in post-war stability in the region. The history of their overlapping interests testifies to this.

On Iran, Pakistan-Afghan and Saudi-Gulf interests have overlapped with US strategic priorities, except during the Obama administration, when the US sponsored the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, and the current administration, which made a failed bid to revive it.

Recently, though, Iran has come under pressure from the Abraham Accords, which have brought Israel into the Gulf security equation; the normalization of Turkish relations with Saudi Arabia and the UAE; and, more recently, the Saudi-mediated cease-fire in Yemen. The current US outreach in the Gulf will further isolate Iran, especially if the traditional Saudi-US partnership is restored.

This probability has already pushed Tehran toward Moscow, as is apparent from its reported deal to provide Russia

with drones and its bid to join hands with Russia against Turkey in northern Syria. Unlike Russia, despite signing a strategic economic deal with Iran, China may prefer to preserve and promote its operational investment stakes in the Gulf rather than be part of Iran's zero-sum game.

The Iranian regime has played this game all along. It survives internally by sustaining the bogey of external danger, while expanding its deadly agenda abroad. How it will respond regionally in the face of its current isolation — more aggression out of desperation, or a facade of diplomacy with its Arab neighbors — remains unclear.

Whatever the case, a globally isolated Iran at least relieves Pakistan and the Taliban rulers from a major spoiler of peace in post-war Afghanistan. They will also be able to serve Saudi-US interests in dealing with Iranian exploits in Southwest Asia. Beyond Iran, the resumption of the Saudi-US partnership could have several probable outcomes in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

First, it is clear that Afghanistan's grave economic and humanitarian crisis cannot be managed unless the US takes the urgent step of unfreezing Afghan assets worth \$9.5 billion being held in American and European banks. Qatar has been the venue for US-Taliban talks for years, including for this financial row. Given its own stake in Afghan humanitarian relief, Saudi Arabia can play a more important role in resolving this matter through its good offices with the US. Social reforms give the Kingdom a distinctive ability to also persuade the Taliban leadership to address US political and human rights concerns, in return.

Second, counterterrorism in Afghanistan is a shared regional and international inter-

est. The Islamic State-Khorasan province terrorist group poses a real danger to Taliban rule. For now, the Daesh affiliate or the remnants of Al-Qaeda do not threaten Gulf-US security. However, if allowed to nurture support and regroup, they can act beyond Afghanistan's borders. Counterterrorism is also a value proposition that Pakistan can offer to regain US interest. In this respect, it can count on US re-engagement in the Gulf, especially with Saudi Arabia.

Third, Pakistan's peace with India and recognition of Israel could be two other propositions over which Gulf-US interests coincide. The prospects of the former ultimately rest on the willingness of the two nuclear nations. The US will be more receptive to the latter, but it is way off: The taboo subject surfaces publicly from time to time, but instantly inflames passions.

Finally, the stability of Pakistan itself is in question. Its new government is struggling to overcome an acute economic crisis by meeting tough conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund. This has caused severe inflation. Pakistan expects Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and China to additionally shore up its national reserves, once the IMF deal is in place. This should not be an issue. Saudi Arabia could also act as a via media for Pakistan's economic and security re-engagement with the US. Given its own interest in China's investment and trade, the Kingdom could even help to assuage US concerns about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is a lifeline for the South Asian nation. (Courtesy: Arab News)

Ishtiaq Ahmad is a former journalist who has been vice chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford.

The digital economy becomes China's engine of growth

Tom Fowdy

The internet stands as one of the great technological developments in history that have changed the world beyond comprehension. We should interpret its rise and consequences as akin to the development of agriculture in the Neolithic era, the printing press in the Renaissance, and the Industrial Revolution. It is a testament to the scope and development of the internet that without it, we would feel our lives are barely functional at all.

Not only have web and digital technologies given us access to information, but in rapidly reducing the barriers to cooperation between people, it has also brought many new conveniences to our life through services and activities, transforming the world of business in conjunction.

The name for this growing world of internet transactions and services is increasingly known as the "digital economy," which includes e-commerce, online services, online payment systems, gaming, advertising revenue, and the significance of major social media companies.

China, owing to its population size and rapid investment in internet and communications infrastructure, has become remarkable for the fact that it now wields the largest digital economy of any country in the world. It has established more than 1.7 million 5G base stations, and its number of 5G users nationwide has hit 500 million.

Likewise, China's utilization of various applications and services has also become more heavily integrated into everyday life than anywhere else. While the United States dominates the Internet of Things compared to the rest of the world, China is unique in having constructed its own comprehensive internet ecosystem.

If one goes to China, one will quickly observe that cashless payment systems, such as WePay and Alipay, are an everyday norm, as too is the widespread usage

of e-commerce apps such as Taobao and T-Mall.

Despite disruptions caused by COVID-19, work organizations tend to be closely knitted together through the use of WeChat, allowing work to be organized effectively and efficiently. The digital economy creates growth by the fact that it facilitates opportunities that did not previously exist, making it a core notion of competitiveness and therefore a key asset in China's continuing economic development.

It should be no surprise based on the fact that the total value of China's digital economy has exploded in size over the past decade, increasing from 11 trillion yuan (\$1.65 trillion) in 2012 to over 45 trillion yuan in 2021, and as a proportion of China's GDP it increased from 21.6% to 39.8% in the same period. In conjunction with this as a run-on effect, the value-added output of major electronic information manufacturers rose 15.7% year on year, hitting a record high in a decade. Meanwhile, the revenue from software and information technology services as well as internet and related services also registered double-digit growth.

All of this means China has been successful in developing its internet-based services, but its journey is not finished yet.

The continuing development of China's digital economy rests on increased access to the internet and infrastructure across the country, continuing research and development of beneficial technologies such as artificial intelligence and cloud computing, as well as exploration of new ways to integrate the processes of the digital economy into the functions and activities of economic sectors, such as energy, medical care, transportation, education, and agriculture.

Ultimately, the digital economy should creatively explore the application of digital technologies to improve and enhance every aspect of our daily lives, and this is the direction China is set to head in the coming years. (Courtesy: China.org.cn)

Tom Fowdy is a British political and international relations analyst and a graduate of Durham and Oxford universities.



Cultural Diplomacy

Indonesian Embassy, Lok Virsa Pakistan to hold grand cultural exhibition

Exhibition to highlight fusion of Indonesia-Pakistan's cultural history, artworks

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Indonesian Embassy Islamabad and the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa), Pakistan will jointly organize five-day exhibition (July 20-24, 2022) titled 'A Night at Lok Virsa Museum: The Confluence of Civilizations between Indonesia and Pakistan' at Lok Virsa Museum. The grand exhibition intends to feature the fusion of Indonesia-Pakistan's cultural history and artworks through a selected collection of photographs and videos.

In an exclusive interview with Daily The Spokesman, Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Adam Tugio said that the exhibition aims to offer fresh perspectives into historical connections, religious backgrounds, and the confluence of civilization of both countries from past to present.

Director Lok Virsa Anwaar-ul-Haq, was also present on the occasion.

The Ambassador of Indonesia further said that the exhibition will highlight the religious-cultural influence and similarities between the two countries during their journey of civilization through the display of art works by focusing on spread of Buddhism in Indonesia, the spread of Islam (Islamic Civilization) in Indonesia, Ancient Civilization, Rock Art and Rock Art Papua.

The spread of Buddhism in Indonesia

Buddhism has a long history in Indonesia. A Chinese traveller named Fa Hsien reported in 5th century AD that the arrival of Buddhism in the archipelago commenced with commercial activities from the early 1st Century along the Maritime Silk Road. Diary of I-tsing, a Chinese Buddhist monk dated back to the 7th Century recorded further that Buddhism flourished in the Srivijaya Kingdom (modern-day of Sumatera). At its peak, Srivijaya Kingdom's authority reached the area of Central Java and Cambodia. The great scholar Dharmapala of Nalanda was reported to visit Srivijaya Kingdom in the 7th Century.

The roots of Buddhist influence in East Asia are also often linked with the ancient territories of Buddhist rule in ancient Gandhara, which was a region in present-day Northwest Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Buddhist heritage is scattered across Pakistan such as the monastery in Takhti-Bahi-KPK, the Dharmarajika Stupa in Taxila and Amluk Dara Stupa in Swat.

It is believed that the Indian Sub-continent has its influence on the spread of Buddhism in Indonesia. The existence of many Buddhist monuments, stupas and temples constructed in Sumatera, Java, Kalimantan, including the marvelous Borobudur Temple, attested to the spread of Buddhism and Hinduism in Indonesia.

Another example of Buddhism-Hinduism ruling in Nusantara from Java island was the Majapahit Kingdom in the 14th Century. The Majapahit Kingdom expanded its dominance across what is now primarily Indonesia and nearly the whole Malay Peninsula under Prime



Minister or Patih Gajah Mada.

Buddhism steadily lost ground in Indonesia, and Islam took its place in the 15th Century. In other locations, Buddhism was integrated with Hinduism, resulting in a Hindu oriented fusion that has survived to the present day in Bali. Despite this, Buddhism has added a distinctive colour to the social fabric of Indonesian culture and civilization.

The spread of Islam (Islamic Civilization) in



Photos by Ghulam Farid

Indonesia

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim-majority country. Despite being located far from the Middle East, around 86 percent of Indonesian population identified as Muslim, posing the question how Islam spreads in Indonesia.

Since the 13th century, Islam has expanded gradually in Indonesia through mercantile activity by Arab Muslim traders, acceptance by local kings, and the impact of Sufism from Persia and South Asia. Again, the impact of Indian sub-continent on the spread of Islam in Indonesia is quite profound. The arrival of Islam in Indonesia is attributed to Gujarati and Indian spice traders in the 13th century. Another theory holds that the 15th century Muslim Chinese Admiral Cheng Ho was also instrumental in spreading Islam on the Indonesian island of Java.

The spread of Islam in ancient Indonesia reached the peak in the 15th century, attested by the emergence of kingdoms or sultanates ruled by local Muslim leaders, spanning from the western most Aceh (Samudera Pasai Sultanate) to the eastern part of Ternate and Tidore in Moluccas, and from the northern most of Kalimantan to southern most of Java.



Indonesian Ambassador says exhibition aims to offer fresh perspectives into historical connections and religious backgrounds of Indonesia and Pakistan



ic practices.

- Santri represents people who adhere to Islamic norms and concentrate on devotional activities in Islamic schools called pesantren or Madrasah.

- Priyayi was initially descendants of local rulers and during the colonial rule of Dutch, referred to those who enjoyed education at Western-style institutions before entering the colonial civil service.

Despite the fact that this distinction has drawn criticism, and that the trichotomy has gotten weaker over time, Geertz's research contributes to better understanding of Islam and Indonesian society.

Indonesia today is not an Islamic state despite its overwhelming Muslim population, rather it is a constitutionally secular state whereby the Government officially recognizes six distinct religions.

This exhibition provides brief glimpses of the spread of Islam in Indonesia.

Ancient Civilization

Similar to Pakistan, Indonesia has also had a huge impact on the study of palaeontology. The island of Java has produced some of the most diverse vertebrates and fossils in numerous discoveries. And in Flores archaeological evidence of prehistoric life has been discovered. Experts like Prof. Verhoeven and Prof. Dubuis predicted that the artefacts were created around 750,000 years ago based on a number of stone tools connected to a stegodon fossil (now-extinct elephant).

Sangiran, located in Central Java, Indonesia

is one of the key sites for the understanding of ancient civilization. According to a UNESCO report (1995), "Sangiran is recognized by scientists to be one of the most important sites in the world for studying fossils". Sangiran is recognized as a world heritage site by UNESCO.

Rock Art

In archaeology, rock art is human-made markings placed on natural surfaces, typically vertical stone surfaces. A high proportion of surviving historic and prehistoric rock art is found in caves or partly enclosed rock shelters. This type also may be called cave art or parietal art. A global phenomenon, rock art is found in many culturally diverse regions of the world. The Ancient Rock Carvings of Sindh and those found at Swat Valley have been explored in Kirthar Mountains Range, Sindh, Pakistan.

Like Pakistan, Indonesia is also home to a large number of rock art sites. They are mostly found in the Eastern Indonesian Archipelago, in the islands of Sulawesi, Muna, Buru, Ceram, Flores, Lombok, Timor, Kai, West Papua, and recently Kalimantan. Most of the publications on rock art in this region only contain descriptions of the sites, some exceptions aside.

Rock Art at Papua

The importance of Indonesia's rock art has been seriously underestimated and overlooked, especially as it occupies a crucial position on the crossroads between South-East Asia and the Pacific. The rock art research conducted in this region is expected to reveal underlying cultural exchanges, patterns and similarities between people living in this vast part of the world.

Inflation likely to tip 8% as soon as next week: BoC

OTTAWA: The Bank of Canada expects inflation to go "a little over" 8%, as soon as next week when June's data is released, and stay in that range for a few more months, Governor Tiff Macklem told a business group in a webcast transcript released late Friday.

Macklem, who spoke to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business the day after Wednesday's shock 100-basis-point interest rate hike, also urged small business owners to avoid building the current pace of price increases into their contracts.

"Inflation is high seven. It's probably going to go a little over eight (8%), we have the next CPI next week. We know oil prices were very high in June, so I wouldn't be surprised to see it move up," Macklem said.

Canadian inflation was 7.7% in May, the highest since January 1983. Analysts surveyed by Reuters expect June inflation to hit 8.3%, which would be the highest since 1982. The data will be released on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. ET (1230 GMT).

Macklem reiterated the Bank of Canada now expects inflation to average around 8% for the next few months, then fall to around 3% by the end of 2023 and to the 2% target in 2024.

Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, who also serves as finance minister, on Saturday said the federal government was responding by "not pouring fuel on the flames" through its budget and by tackling some of the drivers of inflation as well as labor and housing policies.

"We are confident that the Bank of Canada has the tools and the expertise to do this job," she told reporters in a telephone briefing, noting the bank's independent role.

Macklem also made clear the bank is very concerned about a wage-price spiral, where businesses raise wages to keep workers and then pass the higher costs on to households, who then want higher wages to compensate for inflation.

"You can see this creates a self-perpetuating cycle," he said, adding the central bank will take the action needed to get inflation back on target.

"So as a business, don't plan on the current rate of inflation staying. Don't build that into longer-term contracts. Don't build that into wage contracts. It is going to take some time, but you can be confident that inflation will come down."

The CFIB said it could not release its planned recording of Thursday's webcast due to a technical glitch. The business group published its transcript late on Friday.

Global carmakers vie for China's vast auto market

CHANGCHUN: The 19th China Changchun International Auto Expo that kicked off on Friday in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, has attracted tens of thousands of automobile enthusiasts.

A total of 155 domestic and foreign automobile brands and 128 enterprises are vying for customers' attention with their latest models, technology and services. The expo opened at a time when China's automobile market is recovering from a COVID-induced slump earlier this year. It serves as a platform for automakers from home and abroad to seek new opportunities in the world's largest auto market.

The 10-day auto expo, covering a total exhibition area of 200,000 square meters, has nine indoor exhibition halls and four outdoor exhibition areas. As of 10 a.m. Sunday, more than 26,000 consumers visited the auto show, according to its organizing committee.

FAW Toyota Motor Sales Co., Ltd. displayed 15 vehicles spanning 13 models at the expo. Xu Jianxin, a sales manager with the company, said that despite the impact of the epidemic, mid- and high-end models have seen steady growth in sales during the event.

The FAW Audi booth has 21 models displayed at the expo, drawing widespread attention of car enthusiasts. Meanwhile, 20 car models have been put on display in the Mercedes-Benz exhibition area.

In June, the joint venture of Mercedes-Benz and BAIC Group in Beijing saw the 4 millionth complete vehicle roll off the production line.

Arno van der Merwe, president and CEO of Beijing Benz Automotive Co., Ltd. said the joint venture has learned from the advanced manufacturing system and technology of German factories and also fed back its own innovative technology and experience to the German factories.

Since the beginning of this year, global auto companies including Audi, BMW and Volkswagen have accelerated their expansion in China, launching a number of large new energy vehicle (NEV) and other projects.

The Audi FAW NEV project, with an investment of over 30 billion yuan (about 4.44 billion U.S. dollars), broke ground on June 28 in Changchun. This is Audi's first production base specifically for purely electric vehicles in China and is expected to go into operation at the end of 2024, with a planned annual production capacity of 150,000 vehicles.

China is the world's largest automobile market. In 2021, retail sales of automobiles and related products accounted for 9.9 percent of the country's retail sales of consumer goods.

Pakistani startups, tech sector witnessing exponential growth: Masood Khan

Says Pakistan is an attractive destination for investment

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Urging Pakistani-American entrepreneurs based in US to take advantage of existing economic opportunities in Pakistan's economy, a growing middle class and business friendly policies of the government, Pak Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has said that exponential growth of startups and tech sector in Pakistan has created huge economic opportunities and the country was mature for attracting investment.

Ambassador Khan was addressing a symposium on "Healthcare Entrepreneurship Landscape in Pakistan", held on the occasion of APPNA's 45th Annual Summer Convention in Atlantic City. He said that Pakistani-American entrepreneurs have emerged as the key stakeholder in Pak-US economic partnership and



to realize the vision of an economically strong Pakistan.

"Your success stories serve as a catalyst for promoting the entrepreneurial drive and competitive spirit among aspiring entrepreneurs in Pakistan and to further strengthen Pakistan-US partnership", continued the Ambassador. Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) is the largest medical association in the United States.

The symposium was organized by APPNA's Committee on Medical Education, Research and Information Technology Transfer (MERIT) and OPEN Global (Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs). Highlighting huge successes achieved by the startups in Pakistan, Ambassador said that Pakistani startups have attracted an investment of more than US\$ 800 million in last 18 months. International investors were being attracted to Pakistani startups.

There are 3720 startups in Pakistan and out of those, 356 are Health Tech startups. The Ambassador said that health tech startups were reversing the current model of hospital centered healthcare delivery by bringing healthcare to the patients at their point of need using a "patient centered" approach. He said that the government was committed to facilitate startups and new businesses in Pakistan.

He said that simplification of tax regime, incentives for new businesses, establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), liberalization of visa regime demonstrate Pakistan's keenness to become an attractive destination for investment.

Discussing challenges created by COVID pandemic to the healthcare sector across the globe, the Ambassador thanked the US government for provision of 62 million COVID vaccine and said that pandemic was a reminder to prepare ourselves for future challenges of similar nature. He urged physicians and investors to invest their excess capacity in Pakistan in health care sector to reap the benefits of existing opportunities available in the healthcare sector. The participants interacted with the Ambassador and asked questions about existing investment opportunities and the facilitation being extended to the potential investors.

PIAF wants strict measures to see impact of falling oil prices in all sectors

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has observed that the impact of falling oil prices should also be seen on other commodities, including power tariff, as the inflation continued to unleash damage on trade and industry on an annualized basis at 33.16 percent.

PIAF Chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol, in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Haroon Shafiq Chaudhary and vice chairman Raja Adeel Ashfaq, said that cut in fuel prices is a good decision but now government would have to show its management and administrative powers to implement this relief measure in other sectors too.

Faheem Saigol said that most of the power is generated through thermal sources so the decline in fuel prices should also be seen in lowering energy tariff, as their cost has been reduced. Moreover, transportation fares and rates of other commodities should also be reduced accordingly through the writ of the district and provincial authorities, he added.

The PIAF Chairman said that industries need low cost energy to bring down their cost of production, keeping their goods competitive in the international market.

Quoting the latest data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), he said that year-on-year increase in sensitive price indicator (SPI) was due to spike in prices of diesel (141.46 percent), petrol (119.61 percent), onions (89.33 percent), pulse masoor (88.6 percent), vegetable ghee 1kg (78.92 percent), mustard oil (75.72 percent), cooking oil 5 litre (73.01 percent), vegetable ghee 2.5kg (72.44 percent), washing soap (59.93 percent), chicken (52.61 percent), gents sponge chappal (52.21 percent), pulse gram (51.14 percent), garlic (40.54 percent), LPG (39.95 percent), and pulse mash (31.01 percent).

He said that weekly inflation was flat but this trend would depend upon energy price adjustments.

Government has cut petroleum prices, which would bring down inflation. However, likely electricity and gas price adjustments might push the index up, he Rauf said. He warned that CPI reading is yet to peak, which came in at 21.3 percent in June. It is likely to reach 24-25 percent soon.

June's CPI numbers depicted the tough days currently being faced by the most vulnerable segments of the population. People have been seething with the high cost of commodities, particularly fuels and power, which make up a large percentage

of the SPI basket.

He said that Pakistan exports cannot compete with China, Bangladesh and India where power tariffs were 7-9 cents, as the country's exports may witness a major setback in present days due to high cost of electricity, which has become a major stumbling block in industrial development and boosting exports.

He said that fuel and electricity are regarded as the lifeline of any economy and play a pivotal role in socio-economic development of a country.

He observed that the government, in present circumstances, would have to reduce the price of electricity along with the cut in the prices of petroleum products further to bring down the cost of doing business and to promote industrial activities.

PIAF senior vice chairman said that business activities were already in decline and in this situation the government should take serious steps to cut the cost of doing business, as recent hike in power rates would further enhance the cost of production.

He observed that the burden of the surge in oil price in the international market is immediately transferred to masses by the government but the process of reduction in the prices is always very slow, he noted.

EDB finalizes policy document on solar panels, allied equipment

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Engineering Development Board (EDB) is all set to submit its policy document on Solar Panels and Allied Equipments Manufacturing to the Government by the end of this month.

EDB initiated working on this policy formulation some time back under directions from its parent ministry, the Ministry of Industries & Production and the EDB's Board of Management. Over the last few months, extensive consultations have been held with stake-holders which include local manufacturers of solar panels, provincial energy departments, research organizations, academia, users, and other relevant organizations & departments in the federal and provincial governments.

The draft policy was presented in the 51st Board of Management meeting of EDB held in June 2022 and EDB was advised to hold a consultative workshop on the matter before submission of the policy document to the government. The Policy is expected to dovetail with the national solar energy policy being prepared by the Ministry of Power and the Renewable Energy Task Force under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Today, Pakistan, is facing serious energy shortages with record prices that had directly and indirectly affected all sectors of the economy. The country's electricity demand has reached almost 29,000 MW total whereas generation is about 22,000



MW creating a considerable gap between generation and demand, resulting in load shedding. With the present Government's focus on setting solar set ups it becomes imperative to promote localization & indigenization of solar panels and its allied equipment in the country to save huge out flow of foreign exchange.

The country's power sector has a structural issue as its energy generation mix is 40% based on indigenous resources while 60% comprises imported oil fuel. The government has planned to increase local share to 90% by 2030, out of which the targets set for renewable energy is 20% to 30% which is currently around only 1.4% of the total installed capacity.

Roof top solar system in particular needs to be encouraged and incentivized as it is the cheapest source of electric generation available today. In anticipation of the upcoming government policies for incentivizing renewable, especially solar energy, local industry has already made huge investment for building local manufacturing capability and capacity for solar panels and allied equipment whereas several other

local as well as foreign investors are waiting for the appropriate policies to come out before they invest on the ground. Local manufacturing of solar panels and allied equipment not only saves valuable foreign exchange through localization, but also brings in investment and provides skilled job opportunities for engineers and technicians.

The industry is currently using imported raw materials, however in the coming years once local volumes build up, the industry is planning to use local raw materials to further bring costs down and decrease the country's import bill. Glass and Aluminum frame for the Panels in particular can easily be manufactured in Pakistan due to the strong presence of this allied industry within the country.

If the industry is able to meet local demand for solar panels in line with the government's plans, the expected volumes can bring local manufacturing costs down to a level where exports can also be generated from the sector.

EDB has invited the panel manufacturers, provincial energy departments, local EPC contractors, solution providers, foreign consultants working in this field, research organizations, Academia, users, and other relevant organizations / departments in the federation. The highlights of the draft policy document shall be shared in the workshop to get inputs from the stakeholders for firming up the requisite recommendations.

U.S. energy envoy expects steps from OPEC producers on supplies

WASHINGTON: Major crude oil producers have spare capacity and are likely to boost supplies following President Joe Biden's visit to the Middle East, a senior U.S. energy envoy said on Sunday.

Speaking on CBS' "Face the Nation," Amos Hochstein, senior U.S. State Department adviser for energy security, said: "Based on what we heard on the trip, I'm pretty confident that we'll see a few more steps in the coming weeks."

Hochstein did not say which country or countries would boost production or by how much.

"It's not just about Saudi... We met with the GCC, and with Saudi Arabia. I'm not going to go into how much spare capacity there is in Saudi Arabia and in UAE (the United Arab Emirates) and Kuwait etc. But there is additional spare capacity. There is room for increased

production," he said. GCC stands for Gulf Cooperation Council and includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Biden visited Saudi Arabia on Friday as part of his first trip to the Middle East as U.S. president, hoping to strike a deal on oil production to help drive down gasoline prices. A rise in U.S. gasoline prices to more than 40-year highs is fueling inflation and pummeling his ratings in opinion polls.

But he has not secured a clear assurance on an oil production increase.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said a U.S.-Arab summit on Saturday did not discuss oil. He said that OPEC+ would continue to assess market conditions and do what is necessary. OPEC+, which also includes Russia, meets next on Aug. 3.

Industrialists shifting capital due to Ill Infrastructure in SITE: HCCI

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) president Adeel Siddiqui on Sunday expressed concerns over deteriorating civic infrastructure of Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (SITE) which was affecting industrial activity especially transportation of raw material to factories and industries.

He disclosed that industrialists were shifting their capital to other cities from Hyderabad due to poor civic infrastructure and other related issues affecting their industrial activities.

In a statement, Adeel said that industrialists of Hyderabad SITE not only deal in the local market but also meet orders for exports.

He said industrialists had invested billions of rupees in their industries and they were paying regular bills for electricity, gas and other amenities. Besides, he said, these industries were a source of employment for thousands.

Adeel regretted that due to the apathy of the SITE management and delay in de-silting of sewerage lines, rainwater accumulated on roads was destroying road infrastructure.

He said that rainwater was also entering industries, forcing mill and factory owners to utilize their own resources to de-water their areas.

He said the SITE management did not take any steps for rainwater disposal.

He said many industries were facing water shortage while unannounced load shedding of electricity and gas was affecting industries badly. Nonexistence of street lights on roads not only affect transport of goods but also the movement of workers, he added.

HCCI chief said that out of 1300 big or small units, hardly 800 were employed in industrial production in spite of the fact that cost of production had increased manifold due to rising electricity and gas tariffs.

He said that the Hyderabad SITE was the largest area of Pakistan that was busy assembling automobiles until recently but now the production capacity had dropped to 60 per cent. Adeel underscored the need for re-building civic infrastructure in the SITE area as soon as possible so that industrial activity could be revived.

Boeing cuts 20-year industrywide outlook for planes

LONDON: US airplane maker Boeing trimmed its projected industrywide demand for airplanes over the next 20 years, but said it expects deliveries to be stable excluding the Russian market.

Boeing projects airlines worldwide will need 41,170 new airplanes over 20 years with half of the deliveries for replacement aircraft, and with single-aisle aircraft accounting for about 75 per cent of planes.

Boeing's new market outlook, released on Sunday ahead of the Farnborough Airshow, is down from its previous rolling 20-year-forecast of 43,610 deliveries.

The new estimate excludes the Russian market and its projection of 1,540 airplanes, because of the war in

Ukraine and uncertainty about when manufacturers could again sell planes to Russian carriers.

Boeing slightly boosted its forecast for demand over the next 10 years to 19,575 airplane deliveries—a higher projection even excluding the Russian market.

"That's a function of a depressed environment in 2021 falling off and a new trend year in 2031 being added," Darren Hulst, Boeing vice president for commercial marketing, told reporters in a briefing ahead of the Sunday release. "It comes very close to our 2019" outlook if Russia was included.

Boeing also dropped its industrywide passenger traffic forecast growth rate slightly to 3.8 per cent from 4 per

cent, but boosted its cargo growth forecast to 4.1 per cent from 4 per cent last year. It cut its fleet growth forecast to 2.8 per cent from 3.1 per cent. Its forecast for widebody deliveries



over 20 years fell from 7,670 to 7,230. Boeing still projects the global airline fleet by 2041 will nearly double as it still sees a worldwide aviation demand COVID-19 recovery by early

2024.

Over the next 20 years Boeing said "long-term fundamentals remain intact." "Our view of medium-term recovery—when the industry gets back to 2019 levels of global airline traffic—is largely unchanged" since 2020, Hulst said. "Overall, we still see late 2023, early 2024 as the time where the industry recovers to full or at least the level of pre-pandemic traffic."

Boeing sees strong near-term demand for aircraft despite recession risks. "The global industry is still on a recovery trajectory back to where the normal relationship of GDP and traffic would be," Hulst said. "Any small blip from an economy standpoint would be probably overwhelmed by the demand that exists as a result

of those normal economic relationships."

Boeing also projects the freighter fleet will grow 80 per cent by 2041. Air cargo is performing at "historic levels," Hulst said, saying it is in part "a function of the increasing strategic value of air cargo relative to supply chains that are challenged and shipping that is challenged."

Boeing sees e-commerce networks as helping to drive a "strategic shift to air cargo even into the medium- and long-term. ... This isn't just a blip in terms of shipping versus air."

Hulst said the number of routes with more than one airline operating has more than doubled over the last two decades—representing 70 per cent of all capacity.

Pak vs SL

Babar Azam's fighting century helps Pakistan stay afloat

Babar single-handedly took tourists to just four runs short of Sri Lanka's 222

GALLE: Pakistan captain Babar Azam Sunday smashed an impressive 119 before Sri Lanka bowled out green shirts for 218 on the second day of the first Test played at Galle International Stadium.

Azam single-handedly took the tourists to just four runs short of Sri Lanka's 222 as he put on a 70-run tenth-wicket stand with Naseem Shah, who made five not out from 52 balls in Galle.

Left-arm spinner Prabhath Jayasuriya claimed his third successive haul of five wickets or more to rattle the opposition batting, which slumped to 85-7 before lunch and then 148-9 in the second session.

Azam reached his seventh Test century with a four and single off mystery spinner Maheesh Theekshana, who finally got the star batsman trapped lbw to end the Pakistan innings in the final session.

Azam got help from the lower-order batsmen including Yasir Shah (18), Hasan Ali (17) and Naseem, as Pakistan managed 133 runs for the final three wickets. Azam shielded number 11 Naseem by facing most of the balls in a defiant show of batting.



He hit fast bowler Kasun Rajitha for three straight boundaries and later a six and four off Theekshana and Jayasuriya. For Sri Lanka, it was a taste of their own medicine after they had fought back from 133-8 on Saturday, when Pakistan left-arm quick Shaheen Shah Afridi took four wickets. Pakistan resumed the day on 24 for two when play started 30 minutes late because of rain and Azhar Ali could only survive three balls before he was trapped

lbw by Jayasuriya.

Debutant Salman Ali Agha's stay lasted just 15 balls before he was out leg before to another sliding delivery from Jayasuriya having scored five. Jayasuriya, 30, then struck on successive deliveries to remove Mohammad Nawaz and Shaheen Shah Afridi before Yasir survived the hat-trick ball.

Pakistan got the big wicket of Dimuth Karunaratne before stumps, with Sri

Lanka leading by 40 going into day three.

Pakistani Skipper Babar Azam, has become the fastest Asian batter to score 10,000 runs in international cricket. The 27-year-old reached the landmark during his knock in the first innings of the ongoing first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle.

The right-handed batter took 228 innings to achieve the feat. He has now the eleventh batter overall from Pakistan who has crossed 10,000 runs in international cricket.

Babar achieved the landmark during his unbeaten knock of 34 off 72 balls in Pakistan's first innings against Sri Lanka during the first Test at Galle International Stadium.

He was now the fastest batter from Asia to get 10,000 runs in international cricket, going past the previous record set by talismanic India batter Virat Kohli in 232 innings.

Amongst all Pakistan batters to reach the 10,000 runs mark in international cricket, Babar is the fastest to reach the landmark in 228 innings, surpassing the previous record of 248 innings held by legendary batter Javed Miandad.

FIFA Connect Programme to revolutionize Pakistan football: Haroon Malik

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: FIFA-nominated PFF Normalization Committee (NC) Chairman Haroon Malik has said that 'FIFA Connect Programme' will not only revolutionize Pakistan football but also help in holding elections in a free and fair manner.

Addressing a press conference here at the FIFA Headquarters Lahore, Haroon, along with other NC members Saud Hashmi, Barrister Haris Azmat and Shahid Niaz Khokhar, said: "First of all, we want to conduct the PFF elections in a transparent manner, so that the powers can be handed over to the elected body as soon as possible."

"The first challenge regarding holding the elections in a fair and free manner is the registration of the clubs. The FIFA's Connect ID will ensure transparency in the process and help eliminate fake clubs. We are going to start the

clubs' registration next month," he added.

It is worth mentioning here that the Connect Programme provides a unique FIFA ID code for every individual (football club) that has a role in the football organisation. This code is like a digital football passport number and has the information of the history of each stakeholder. Most of the FIFA members' system is linked up with the 'FIFA Connect Programme'.

Haroon Malik said that a dark era has finally ended with the continuous struggle and support of the football community, and the media also supported them in this difficult journey. "Keeping in view the FIFA Charter, the Normalization Committee remained on its principal stance, while fighting a legal battle on the internal front, it also conveyed this to the government houses that in case of continuing to deviate from the rules and regulations of the international



body, Pakistan's suspension might turn into a long-term ban.

"On the other hand, the NC convinced FIFA that taking any extreme step could be harmful for Pakistani footballers. However, thanks to the support of FIFA and AFC, the difficult journey is over, and now many goals are in front of the Normalization Committee," he added.

The NC Chairman revealed

that not only football activities will be restored at the local level, but pragmatic steps will also be initiated to ensure the participation of national teams in international events. "This year, Pakistan will participate in the SAFF Women's Championship that will take place in Nepal while we can also host two AFC youth events.

"A Disciplinary Committee will be formed to keep a close watch

on irregularities in various cases so as to protect the assets of Pakistan Football Federation and the interests of the football community. The national men and women players will be provided maximum opportunities at national and international level so that they may improve their games and skills and also earn better livelihood for their families," Haroon Malik concluded.

Spain set up Euro quarter-final against England

LONDON: Spain set up a quarter-final meeting with England at Euro 2022 after Marta Cardona's late goal secured a 1-0 win over Denmark on Saturday.

A first defeat since 2019 to Germany in their second group game meant Jorge Vilda's side needed a point to avoid an early exit. La Roja were made to endure a nervous night at the Brentford Community Stadium until Cardona's 89th minute looping header made sure of their place in the last eight. Spain's status as favourites was rocked by the loss of Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas and all-time top goalscorer Jennifer Hermoso before the tournament began.

And they will need to improve markedly if they are to upset an England side that scored 14 goals without reply in the group stages on Wednesday. Denmark's 4-0 thrashing at the hands of Germany in their opening game meant the Euro 2017 finalists needed to win due to their inferior goal difference. Despite



Spain's dominance of possession, the Danes had their chance to spring an upset nine minutes from time when substitute Nadia Nadim's fierce shot was turned over by Sandra Panos.

Vilda was growing increasingly frustrated on the sidelines as nerves appeared to be getting to his side as the final whistle approached with uncharacteristic sloppy passes offering Denmark hope.

But Spain finally got the breathing

space they desired when Olga Carmo-na's cross was met by her Real Madrid teammate Cardona. "That goal is for everyone," said Cardona, who dedicated her goal to Virginia Torrecilla, who is also absent from the tournament after recovering from a brain tumour. "It is for Virginia, for Jenni, for Alexia and those that weren't able to come.

"The group stage is very difficult and now we can really go for it." Germany were already guaranteed to group B, but kept their 100 percent record intact with a 3-0 win over Finland in Milton Keynes. Sophia Kleinherne broke the Finns' resistance five minutes before half-time when the Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder headed home Giulia Gwinn's cross. Alexandra Popp then grabbed her third goal in as many games after the break before Nicole Anyomi's precise finish rounded off the scoring. The eight-time winners will face Austria in the last eight in London on Thursday.

Chelsea sign Koulibaly on four-year deal

LONDON: Senegal international defender Kalidou Koulibaly has signed a four-year deal with Chelsea from Serie A club Napoli, the Premier League club said on Saturday.

The 31-year-old Senegal captain becomes the second signing after Manchester City striker Raheem Sterling since Todd Boehly's consortium bought the club. "I'm very happy to be here with this team at Chelsea," said Koulibaly. "It's a big team in the world and my dream was always to play in the Premier League. Chelsea came first to get me in 2016 but we didn't make it.

Now when they came to me I accepted it because they really wanted me to come to the Premier League to play for them. "When I spoke to my good friends Edou (Mendy) and Jorginho they made my choice easier." Koulibaly, who led Senegal to the African Cup of Nations title earlier this year, joined Napoli from Genk in 2014 and made 317 appearances for the Italian side. He won the Italian Cup title in 2020. His arrival at Stamford Bridge follows the departures of defenders Antonio Rudiger to Real Madrid and Andreas Christensen to Barcelona, both on free transfers.

Kerley leads American 100m sweep at worlds

EUGENE: American Fred Kerley led a US clean sweep as he stormed to victory in the men's 100m at the World Championships in Oregon on Saturday.

Kerley, in lane four, trailed Marvin Bracy for 95 metres of the tight race, but managed to outdip his teammate for victory in 9.86 seconds at Eugene's Hayward Field. Bracy took silver in 9.88sec, Trayvon Bromell claiming bronze in the same time for a third-ever 100m world championship clean sweep for the United States after 1983 and 1991.

The fourth of the strong US quartet, Christian Coleman, the reigning world champion from Doha in 2019 who was banned from the Tokyo Olympics for missing three doping tests, finished

sixth (10.01) despite an electric start. "We said we were going to do it and we did! USA, baby!" Olympic silver medalist Kerley said to roars of approval and applause from a partisan home crowd.

"I didn't know until I looked up and saw the clock with my name 'Fred Kerley' on it," added Kerley, whose path to gold was made easier by the withdrawal of Italy's Olympic champion Marcell Jacobs earlier Saturday. "It means a lot and I've done something not many 400m runners have done," Kerley said, adding: "I know today opened up many doors for me. The future is bright for me." The last US clean sweep featured Carl Lewis, Leroy Burrell and Dennis Mitchell, something not lost on the modest Kerley or silver

medallist Bracy. "It's amazing to be among the great, they did it in 1991, we did in 2022," Bracy said.

"This is history, to be part of something that has only happened three times ever just means the world to me." Bracy meanwhile paid tribute to Kerley's remarkable versatility. The 27-year-old started his career as a 400m specialist before switching down to the shorter 100m. "The guy's special, he's a rare talent to be able to do all three events, his range is limitless.

He might do 800m next year, we don't know! "He's a special cat, amongst an elite group of people like the (Usain) Bolts the Wayde van Niekerks." Kerley has now set his sights on the 200m starting Monday, and is also not ruling out

runs in the 4x100m and 4x400m relays. "If the coach allows me!" Kerley told reporters. It was far from plain sailing for the in-form Kerley, who set out his stall with a heat-winning 9.79sec on Friday, as all the sprinters got off to a good start.

Bracy and Coleman looked like they might deprive Kerley of a gold many had predicted he would win. But they hadn't counted on his savage finishing skills, the former 400m runner showing all his strength at the line. Bromell also left it late to sneak onto the podium from lane eight.

As the crowd realised it was a US clean sweep, chants of "U-S-A" rang out and flags brandished. Jamaica's Oblique Seville finished fourth in 9.97sec, just ahead of



South African Akani Simbine, who was clocked at 10.01 like Coleman in sixth. Japan's Abdul Hakim Sani Brown and Canada's Aaron Brown were seventh and eighth, in 10.06 and 10.07sec respectively.

Kupcho, Salas win LPGA pairs event

WASHINGTON: Jennifer Kupcho and Lizette Salas combined for a nine-under par 61 on Saturday to win the LPGA Great Lakes Bay Invitational team event by five strokes.

The US duo started the day with a four-shot lead and didn't put a foot wrong in the four-ball (best ball) final round at Midland Country Club in Michigan. Their 26-under par total put them five in front of Finland's Matilda Castren and Malaysian Kelly Tan - who grabbed solo second on 21-under par with Castren's birdie at the 18th to cap an eight-under par 62.

That saw them edge ahead of American Stacy Lewis and Mexico's Maria Fassi, who roared up the leaderboard with an 11-under par 59 but settled for third on 20-under 260. Kupcho and Salas, who took a win and a tie for the US in last year's Solheim Cup loss to Europe, said the confidence of that partnership carried them this week. "I think we were clicking all week," said 25-year-old Kupcho, who won her first major title in April at the Chevron Championship and earned her second LPGA victory at the Meijer Classic last month.

"I think we just have a lot of faith in each other. We make each other comfortable. We just know if we mess up, the other person's got us and that has worked really well for us." For Salas, it was the end of a long dry spell since she won her only prior LPGA title at the Kingsmill Championship in 2014.

"Just a magical week," Salas said. Castren and Tan were also a team of good friends, with Castren poised to be maid of honour at Tan's wedding next December. They seized solo second with a birdie at the par-three finishing hole, where Castren's tee shot settled inches from the cup. "I was just trying to hit good shots," Castren said of their steady climb up the leaderboard, which featured birdies at five straight holes from the 10th through the 14th.

Iran reinstate Skocic as head coach

DUBAI: Dragan Skocic has been reinstated as head coach of Iran after a meeting between the board of directors of the Iranian Football Federation and its technical committee, semi-official Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

Skocic's dismissal had been reported on Monday, prompting widespread criticism among the public just four months ahead of the World Cup finals in Qatar.

The 53-year-old Croatian will now continue to train Iran for their sixth appearance and third consecutive participation at the World Cup.

Iran have been drawn in Group B and will kick off their campaign against England on Nov. 21 before taking on Wales and the United States.

Veteran Bangladesh star announces T20I retirement

DHAKA: The star batter announced his retirement from the shortest form of the game after Bangladesh's 3-0 whitewash over West Indies in the ODI series.

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal called time on his T20I career, announcing his retirement via Facebook.

In the aftermath of The Tigers' thumping series win over West Indies away from home, Tamim wrote on his official Facebook page: "Consider me retired from T20 internationals from today. Thanks everyone."

Having made his T20I debut in 2007, Tamim retires as Bangladesh's third-highest run-getter in the format with 1701 runs in 74 matches at an average of 24.65 and strike rate of 117.47. His 103* against Oman at the T20 World Cup in 2016 makes him Bangladesh's only centurion in T20Is.

Tamim had a brilliant tour of the West Indies, finishing as the Player of the Series in the ODI leg after finishing as the highest run-getter with 117 runs in three matches, including a 50* in the second ODI.

The southpaw's decision to retire from T20Is doesn't come as a surprise. Earlier this year in January, Tamim had announced that he would be taking a temporary break from T20I cricket for six months. Prior to that, he had voluntarily withdrawn his name from contention for the T20 World Cup last year in Oman and UAE in the hopes of the next generation taking the mantle at the marquee event.

The 33-year-old has led the Tigers brilliantly as captain in the ODI format, winning the last five series out of five, including two famous away wins in West Indies and South Africa. In both the series, Tamim played an instrumental role with the bat, finishing as the highest run-getter.

Singapore Open

Chinese shuttlers take three silvers

SINGAPORE: Chinese players entered three finals at the Singapore Open badminton tournament on Sunday, but all ended up with silver medals.

Youngster Wang Zhiyi was defeated by India's Puserala V. Sindhu 2-1 in the women's singles final.

Sindhu took control from the start, dominating and quickly winning the first set 21-9. In the second set, Wang showed her strong form, hitting a string of scores to tie the match 1-1, but Sindhu took the third set 21-15. "I was ready for a tough match today, but in the second half of the third set, I didn't control it very well," Wang said.

"I lost quickly when I met her last time. But this time there is some improvement if you just look at the process, and I'm looking forward to the next match against her," Wang added.

In the mixed doubles, Wang Yiyu and Huang Dongping lost 12-21, 17-21 to Thailand's Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai.

The build-up to the final was rocked by the decision of Olympic champion Jacobs to withdraw just hours before the semi-finals with tightness in his right thigh. Italian team doctor Andrea Billi said that evaluation of the contraction had found a "clinical picture that can put muscle integrity at risk and lead to injury".

Jacobs, who pulled off one of the shocks of the Tokyo Olympics last year when he stormed to victory in the 100m in 9.80sec, was crowned world indoor 60m champion in Belgrade in March but has struggled with injury since. "I am a fighter and this is why I decided to be in Eugene," he tweeted, saying it had been a "painful choice, I am forced to stop".